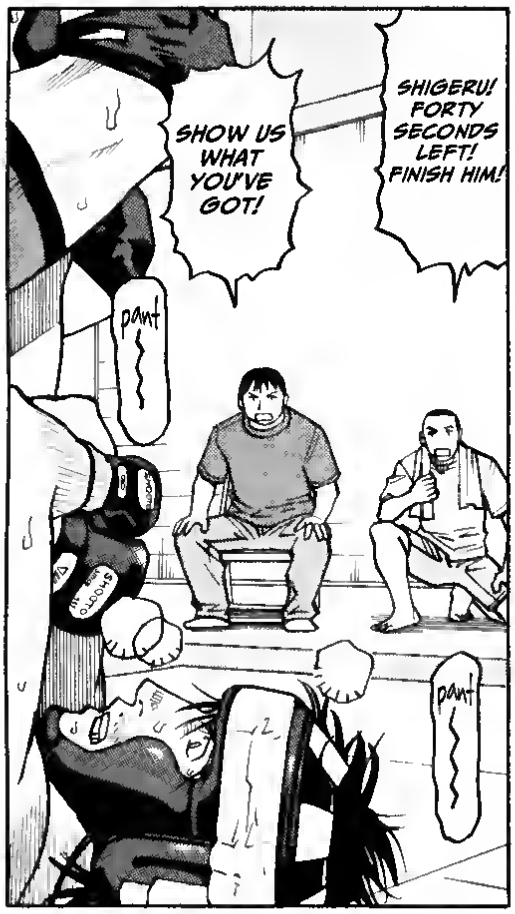
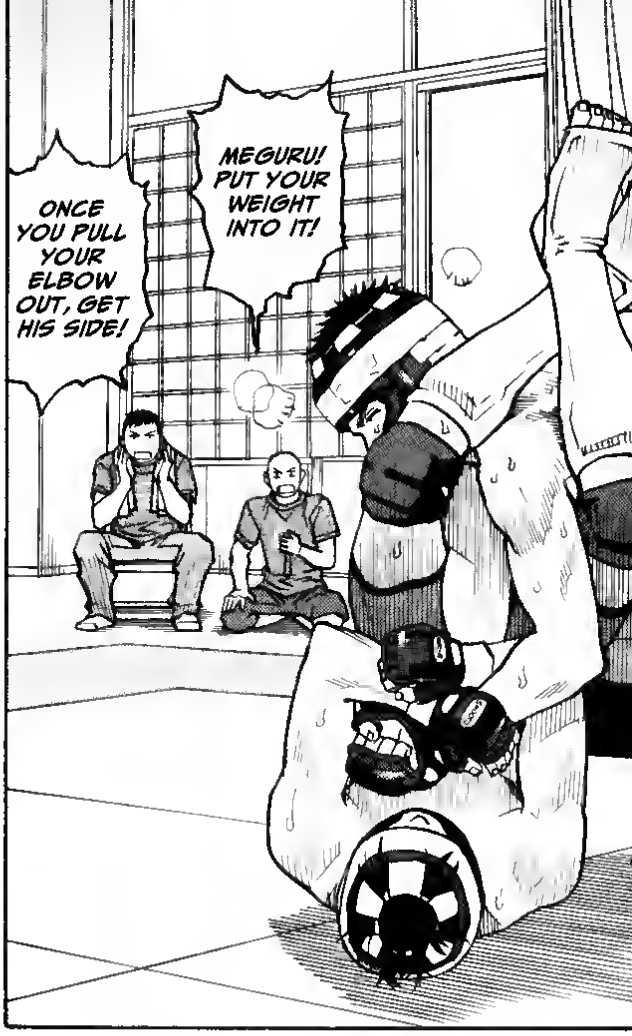
Chapter 33 | First Round Tournament Match (Part 4)


SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
SHIGERU! FORTY SECONDS LEFT! FINISH HIM!
pant
pant


ONCE YOU PULL YOUR ELBOW OUT, GET HIS SIDE!
MEGURU! PUT YOUR WEIGHT INTO IT!

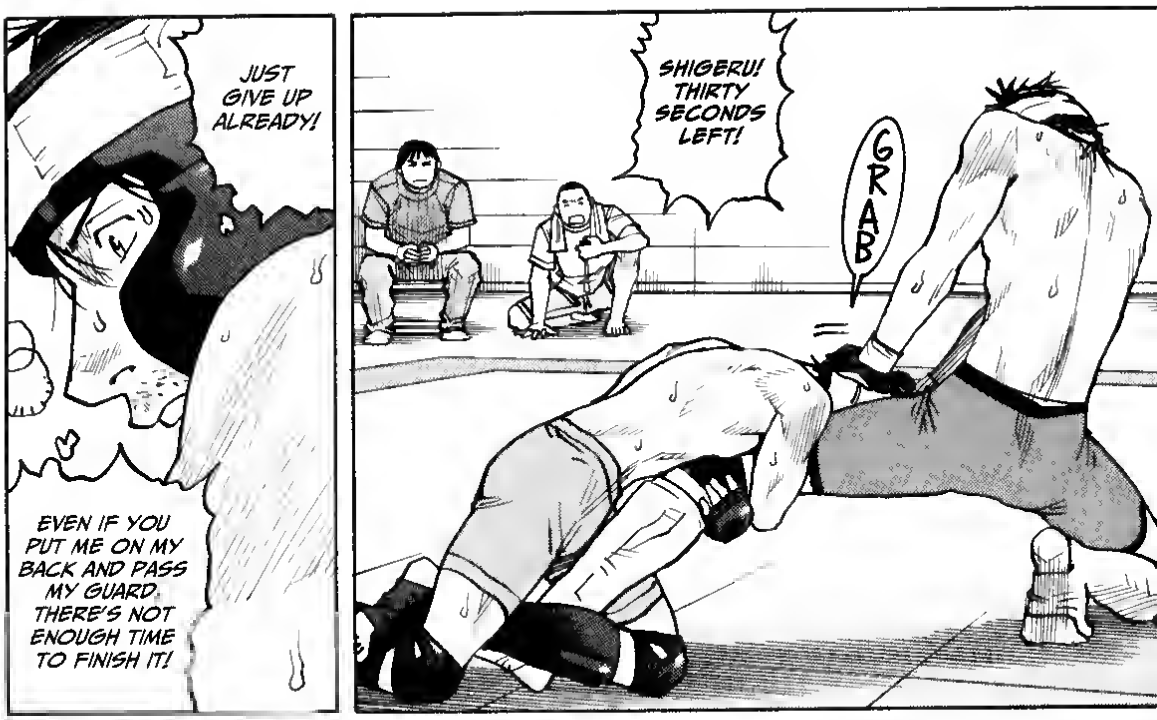
I CAN'T... HOLD ON...
MY ARMS ARE ABOUT TO GIVE OUT...

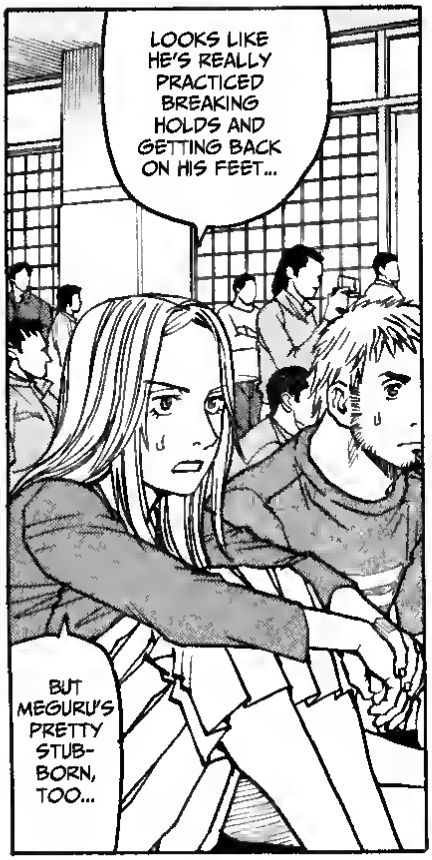
HRG!

DAMN IT!
IT'S NOT WORK-ING!
IF I CAN KNOCK HIS LEFT LEG OUT...
MY ABS ARE THROBBING.
huff
huff
huff
SO...
I'VE GOT A BIG ENOUGH LEAD...
!
GEEE

HE'S GOING FOR A TRIANGLE!
STRAIGHTEN UP!

I CAN'T LET HIM GET BACK ON HIS FEET!
SHIT!
ドガッ
OOF!
THAT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE!
DON'T LET HIM STAND UP, MEGURU! KEEP HIM ON THE GROUND!


JUST GIVE UP ALREADY!
EVEN IF YOU PUT ME ON MY BACK AND PASS MY GUARD, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH IT!
SHIGERU! THIRTY SECONDS LEFT!
GRAB

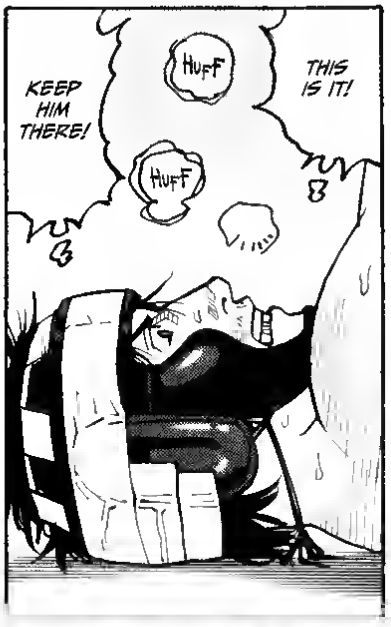

LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY PRACTICED BREAKING HOLDS AND GETTING BACK ON HIS FEET...
BUT MEGURU'S PRETTY STUB-BORN, TOO...

WHEN MEGURU STRAIGHT-ENED UP,
HE SWITCHED FROM AN ARMBAR TO A TRIANGLE...
HE KICKED HIM IN THE HIP TO PUSH UP.

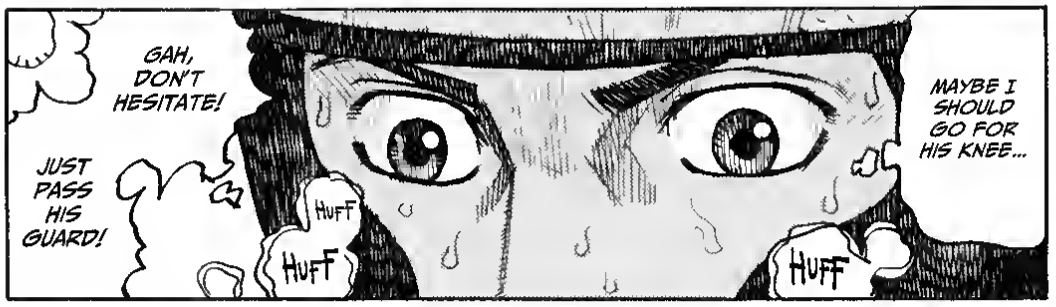
I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT EVERY-THING I HAVE!
I HAVE TO GET HIM DOWN, NO MATTER WHAT!
UGH!
ガッ
グ
イッ
WHOA!
ガガガ

PIN HIM DOWN!
PASS HIS GUARD!
WOW.
HE GOT HIM DOWN!
HE'S PRETTY TENA-CIOUS.
OH!

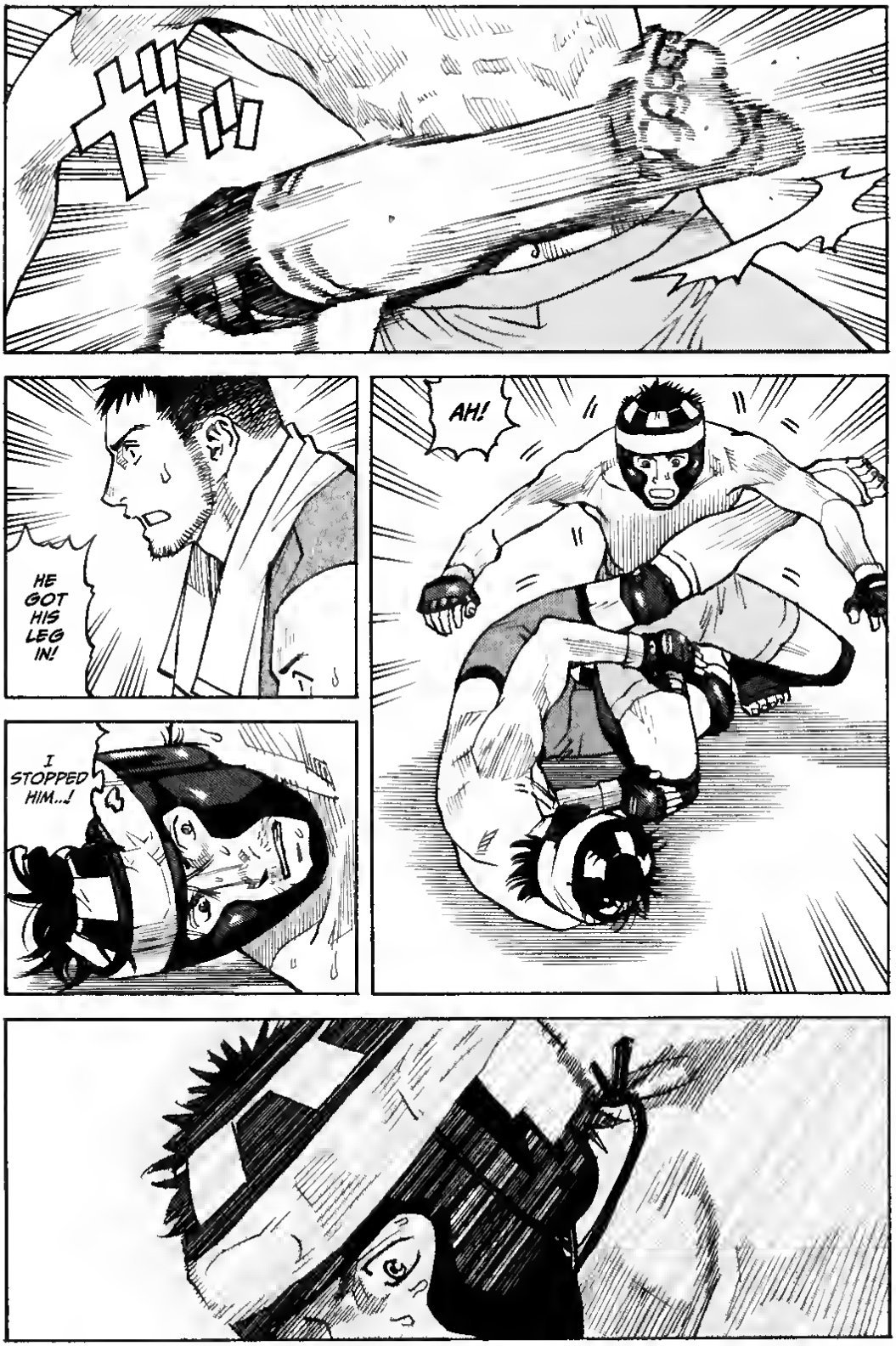
KEEP MOVING! PASS GUARD!
MEGURU! DON'T STOP!
I'M BACK IN HIS GUARD!
HUFF
DAMN IT!
HUFF
STAY ON THE OFFENSE!


KEEP HIM THERE!
HUFF
HUFF
THIS IS IT!

"KEEP FIGHTING TILL THE END, EVEN IF IT'S A DECISION."
THAT'S WHAT FURUYA TOLD ME!
I CAN'T STOP NOW!


GAH, DON'T HESITATE!
JUST PASS HIS GUARD!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR HIS KNEE...

ズッ
SHIGERU! TWENTY SECONDS!
OK!
HUFF
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THIS POSI-TION!
HUFF
I GOT MY KNEE IN!
I CAN DO THIS!
!


ガッ
HE GOT HIS LEG IN!
AH!
I STOPPED HIM...!

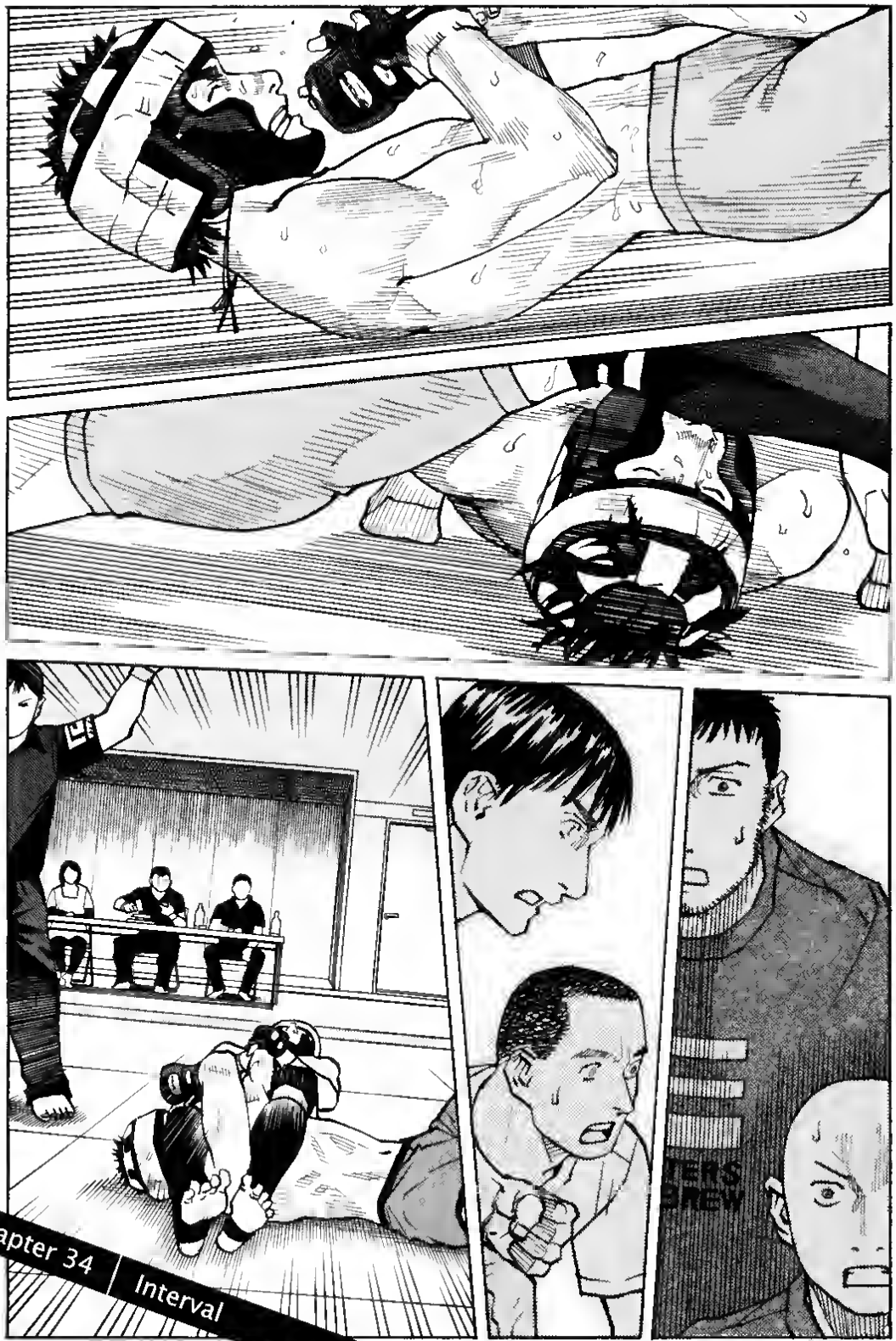
!!
THE SWEAT ...
NO WAY!
HE PASSED TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE?!
I CAN STAND UP!
SO SLIP-PERY!

ばっ

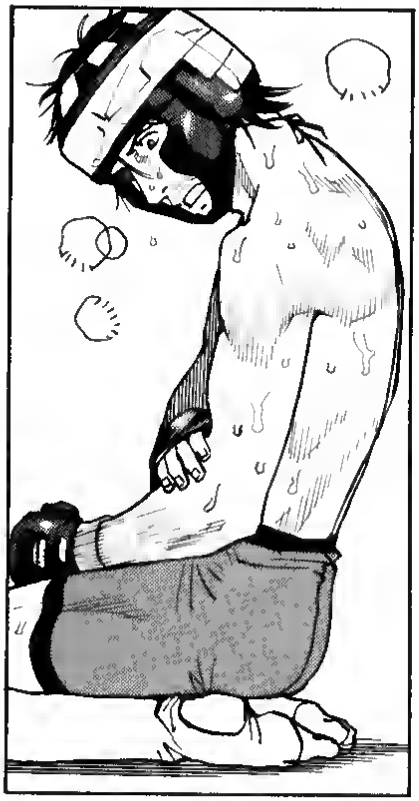
...HIS BACK!
HE GOT...

MEGURU, GOOO!
SUBMIT HIM!
SHIGERU! TEN SECONDS!
HANG IN THERE!
I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH LEFT TO SQUEEZE!
IT'S NO USE... MY ARMS ARE GIVING OUT.
I'VE STILL GOT A POINT LEAD, THOUGH! IF I JUST GUARD MY NECK...
FUCK! DID I SCREW UP?!
THIS MATCH IS MINE!
FIVE SECONDS!

SHOOTO
SHOOTO
MATCH OVER!
DEFENCE



MATCH OVER!



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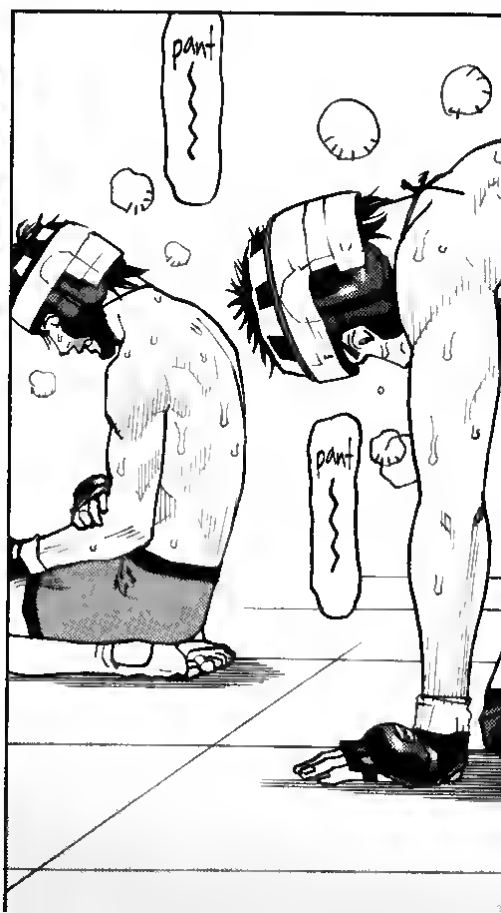
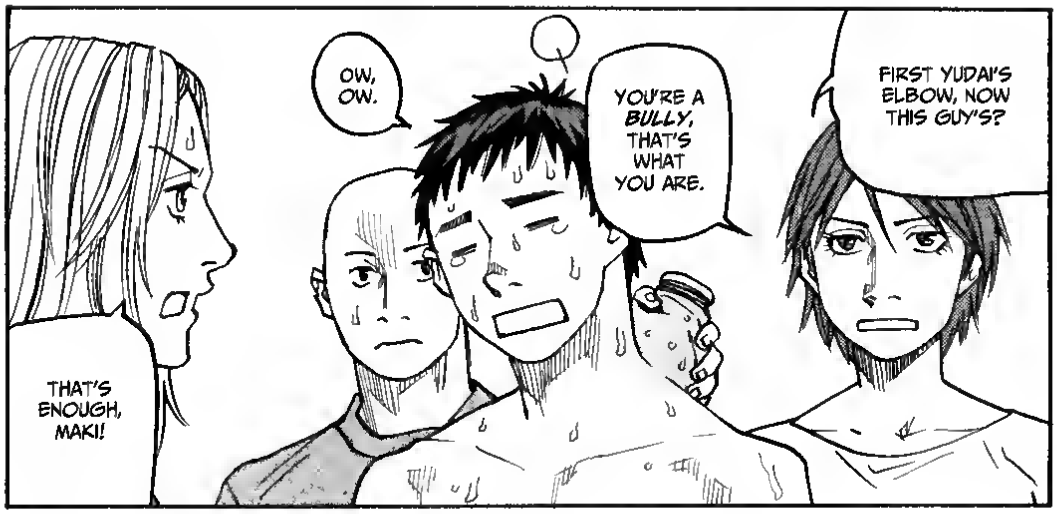

pant
pant

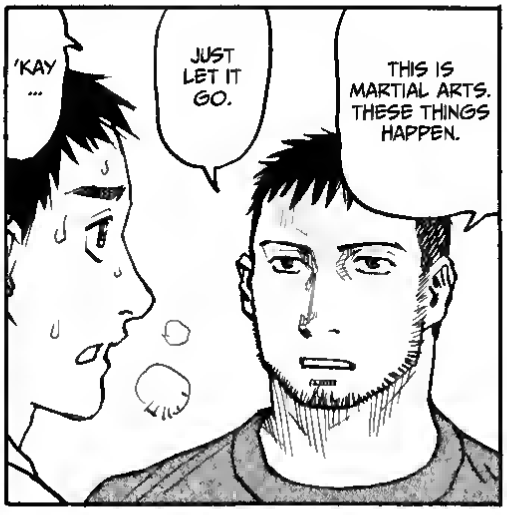
The referee has called the stop to this contest at...
...3 minutes and 59 seconds...
I stand corrected.
HE STRAIGHTENED HIS ARM JUST BEFORE THE BELL!
We now go to the judges' scorecard for the decision --
!
...declaring the winner by Technical Submission...
...due to an armbar...
...Meguru Takayanagi!

!
UM...
BUT THE OTHER GUY DIDN'T TAP.
IN AMATEUR *SHOOTO*, THE MATCH IS OVER AS SOON AS YOUR ARM IS STRAIGHTENED.
THAT WAS PRETTY QUICK, THOUGH, SO HE PROBABLY HURT HIS ELBOW.
...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THANKS ...

...WHY COULDN'T I WIN?
THAT ARMBAR YOU USED EARLIER...
DID YOU HURT YOUR ELBOW ...?
ICE! GET US SOME ICE!
...
IF YOU'D JUST TRIED A LITTLE HARDER, YOU COULD HAVE FINISHED IT.
HE WAS ALREADY WORN OUT BY THEN.
YOUR STYLE OF RACKING UP POINTS EARLY ON AND THEN RUNNING AWAY USUALLY WORKS, BUT...
...THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS, AFTER ALL, AND SOMETIMES YOU'VE JUST GOTTA GO FOR IT.
IF YOU LET THAT MOMENT SLIP AWAY...
...IT'S GONNA COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU.
...
GO HAVE THE DOCTOR CHECK YOU OUT.

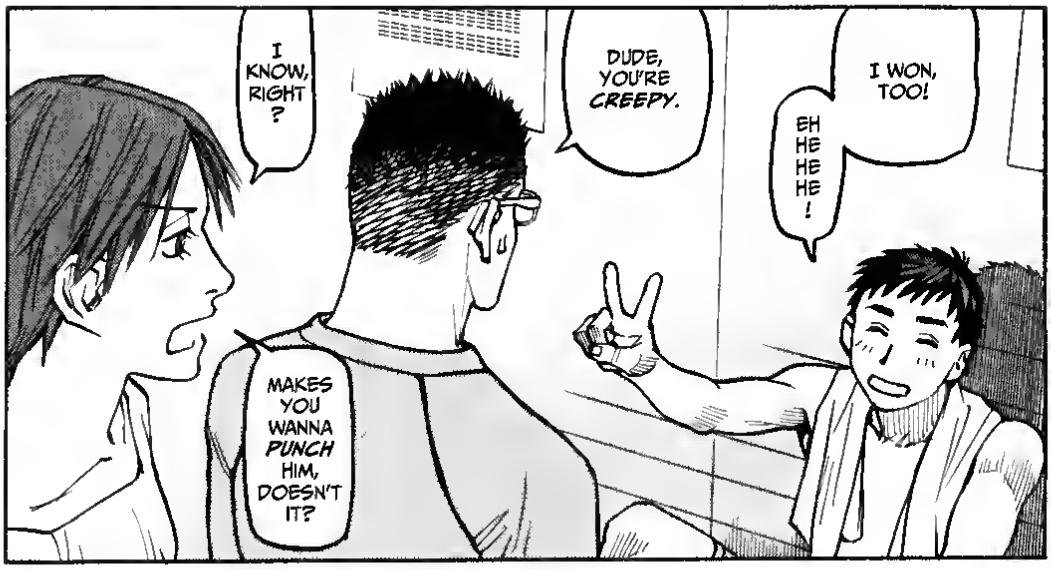

OW, OW.
YOU'RE A BULLY, THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
FIRST YUDAI'S ELBOW, NOW THIS GUY'S?
THAT'S ENOUGH, MAKI!

YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP YOUR DEFENSE UP.
YEAH ...
HE DROPPED YOU ONCE, THOUGH.


'KAY ...
JUST LET IT GO.
THIS IS MARTIAL ARTS. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

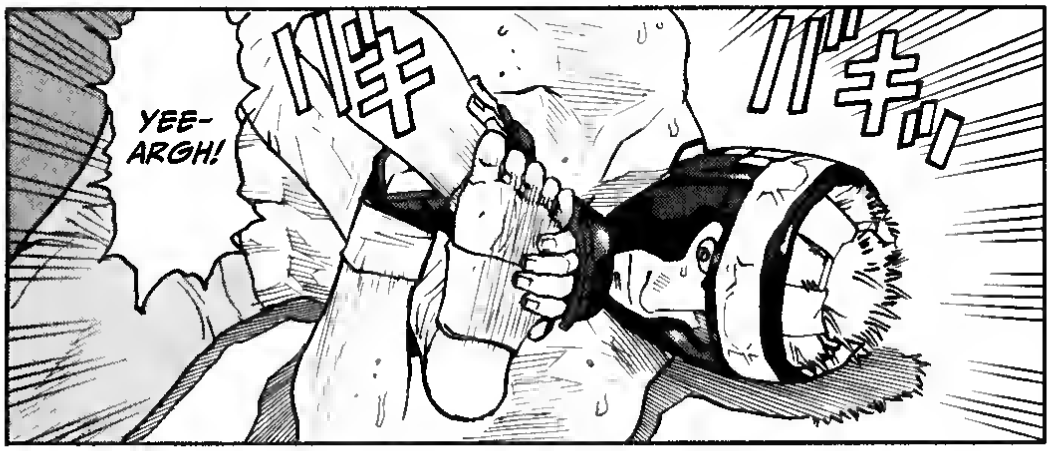
TE-HEH

!


I KNOW, RIGHT?
MAKES YOU WANNA PUNCH HIM, DOESN'T IT?
DUDE, YOU'RE CREEPY.
EH HE HE HE!
I WON, TOO!

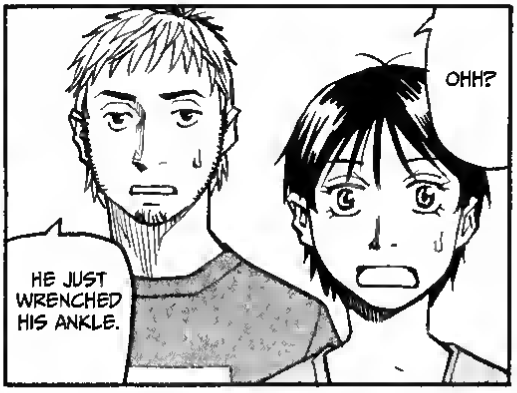
CATCH!
OH, WHOEVER WINS THIS MATCH.

YUDAI'S UP AGAINST A WRESTLER NAMED TACHIBANA.
AND MEGURU'S OPPONENT IS...
WHO ARE YUDAI AND MEGURU UP AGAINST NEXT?


YEE-ARGH!
バキッ
バキッ

STOP!

The referee has called the stop to this contest at 2 minutes and 46 seconds...
...declaring the winner by Submission...


OHH?
HE JUST WRENCHED HIS ANKLE.

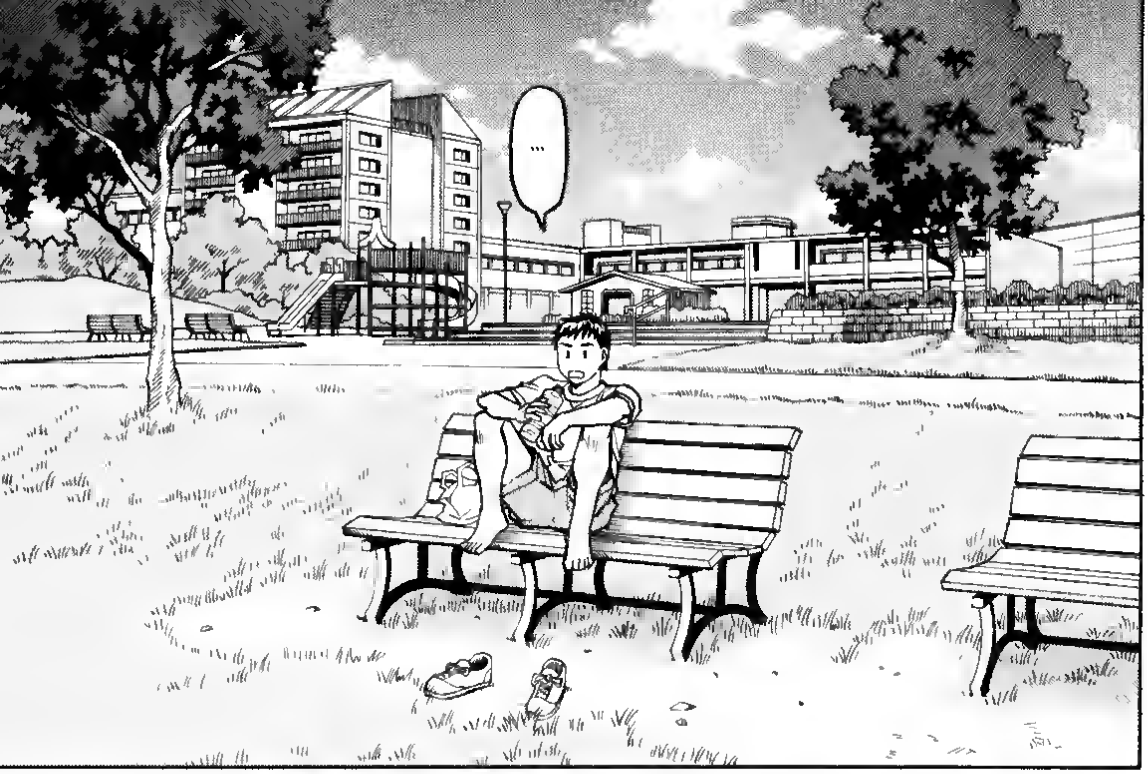
BUT YOU'VE ONLY GOT TO MAINTAIN A LEGLOCK FOR AN INSTANT...
LOTS OF INJURIES TODAY.

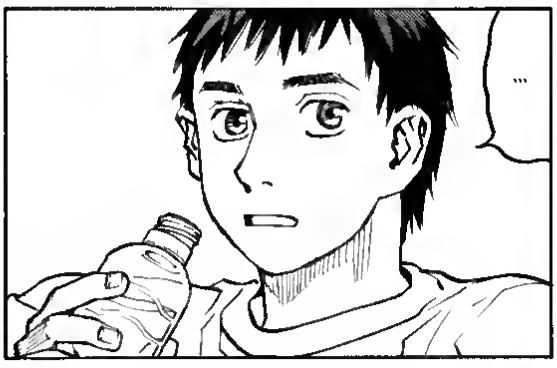
HUH?!
...due to an ankle lock...
...Kiyoshi Ogasawara.
WHY IS HE BLOND?
ACK!

HE'S COMING OVER HERE!
EEP!
ざっ
ざっ
WE BOTH MADE IT THROUGH THE FIRST ROUND!
AND WE'RE GONNA BE UP AGAINST EACH OTHER...
...IN ROUND TWO!
...WHY'RE YOU BLOND?
I WANTED TO CHANGE MY IMAGE!
ぶんっ
ぶんっ
EEEEEEEEKKKKK
MEGU-RUUUU!
ガシッ

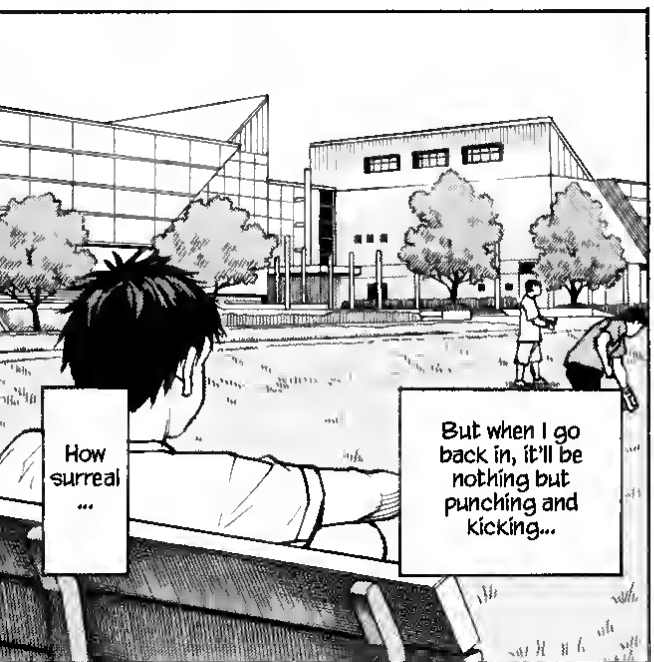
SEE YA!
...BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO THE SAME GUY TWICE!
STRIKES MAY BE ALLOWED THIS TIME...
SPARKLE
...
HE REALLY MESSED ME UP.
FUCK.
COMING THROUGH.
...
YOU'RE OVER-DOING THE MONO-TONE, MAKI.
EEK, MARTIAL ARTS ARE SOOO SCARY.
I DUNNO ...
HOW CAN HE LOOK SO CALM AFTER BREAKING THAT GUY'S ANKLE?!
DID HE REALLY TWIST IT THAT HARD?

KEEP AN EYE ON THE TIME.
I'M GONNA GO GET SOME AIR...
ROUND TWO'S STARTING SOON.
AHH...
SURE IS A NICE DAY...
...
LUTADOR
FIGHTERS GEAR
SHOOTO





*A BASIC FORM OF BASEBALL PLAYED BY CHILDREN WITHOUT A SECOND BASE

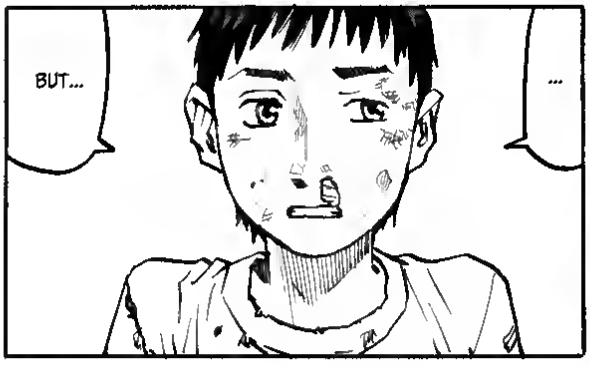


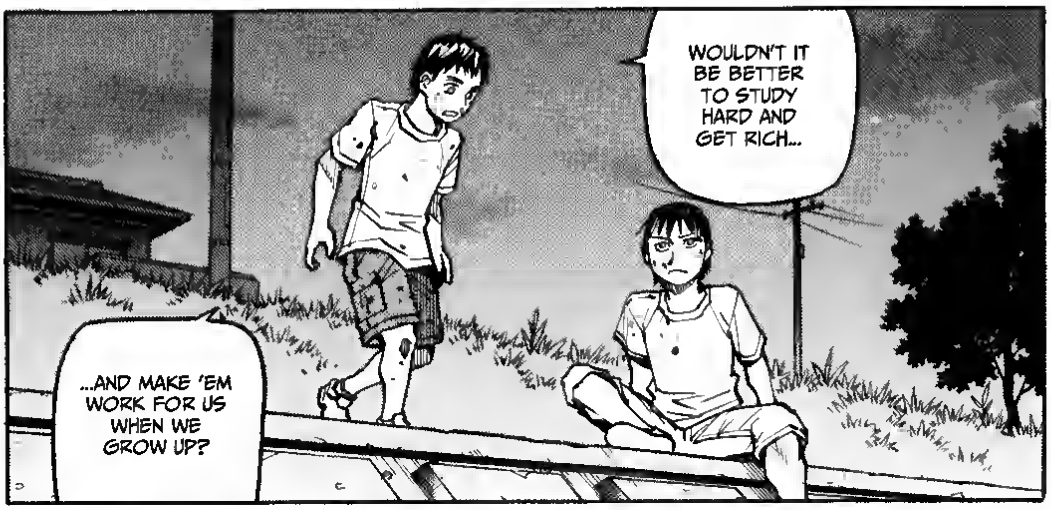
Why did I...
...start *shooto* anyway?
POP
it's not an extracurricular activity, so even if I win, it won't help me get a job or get into college or anything.
And it's all divided by weight classes, so I'd probably lose to a heavyweight. (And what does "the strongest" mean anyway?)
Even if I go pro, there's no guarantee I can make a living off it.
So why?

I WANNA BE STRONGER.

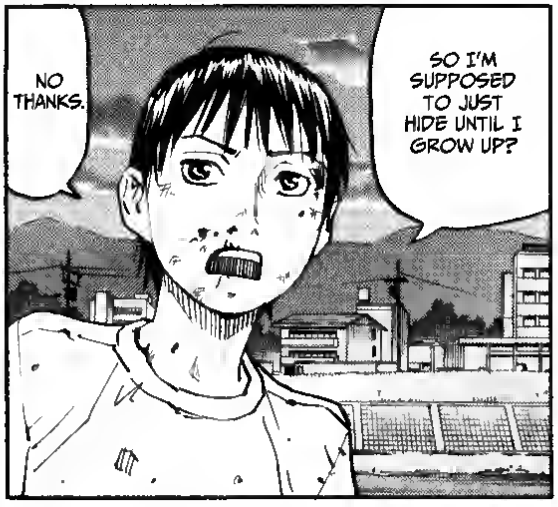
...TO PUSH ME AROUND ANY-MORE.
THEN THOSE GUYS WON'T BE ABLE...

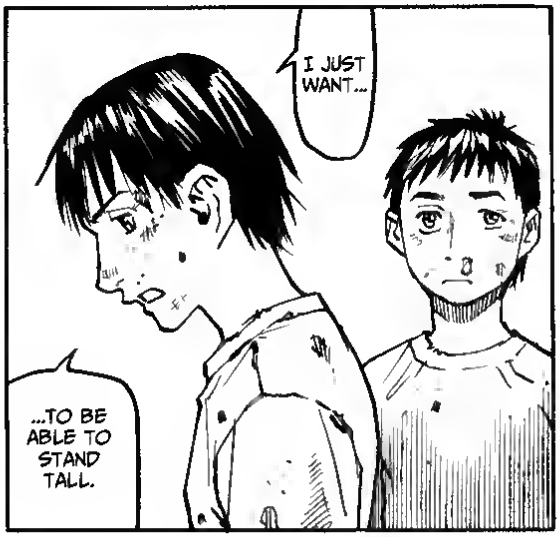
...


BUT...
...


WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO STUDY HARD AND GET RICH...
...AND MAKE 'EM WORK FOR US WHEN WE GROW UP?

EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS.

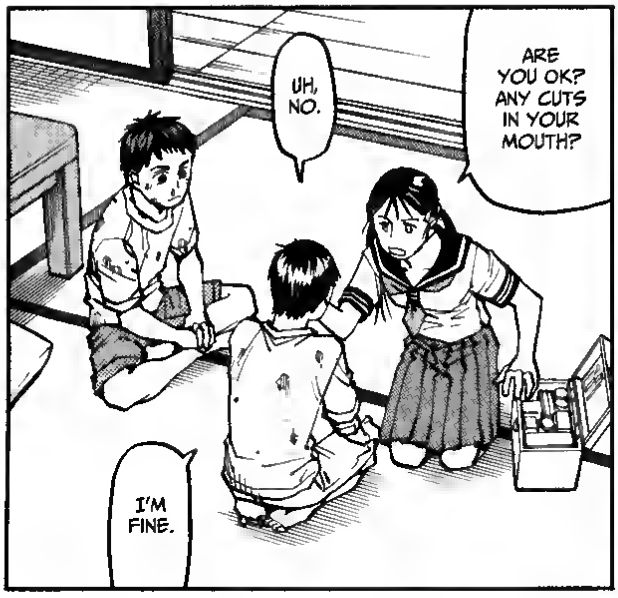

NO THANKS.
SO I'M SUPPOSED TO JUST HIDE UNTIL I GROW UP?


I JUST WANT...
...TO BE ABLE TO STAND TALL.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
SHUT UP.
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!

WERE YOU TWO FIGHTING *AGAIN*?!
OH, WHAT IN THE...?!

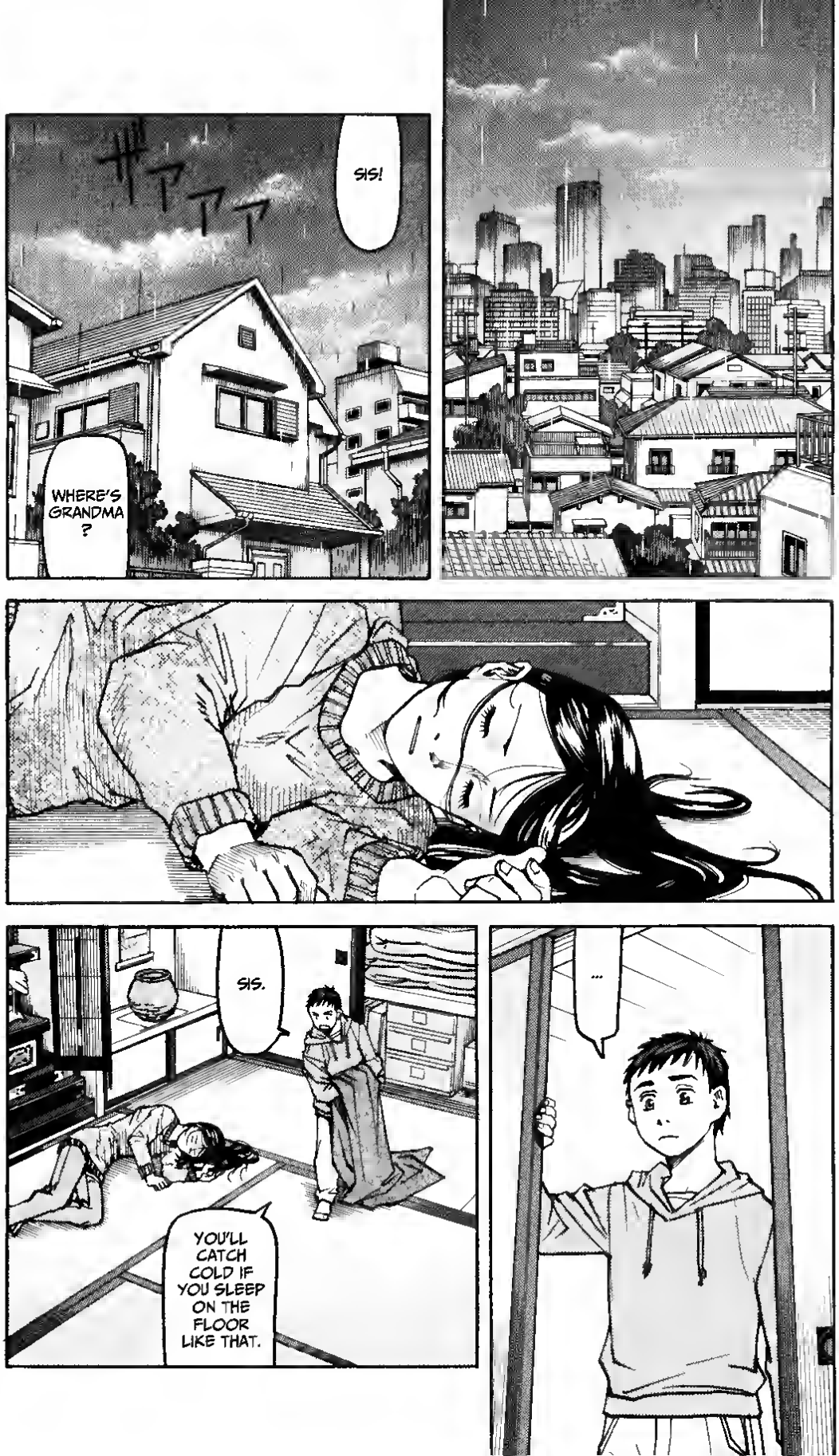
BOTH OF YOU GET INSIDE!
ANYWAY, I'D BETTER CLEAN YOU UP.


ARE YOU OK? ANY CUTS IN YOUR MOUTH?
UH, NO.
I'M FINE.

...
mmbl
mmbl

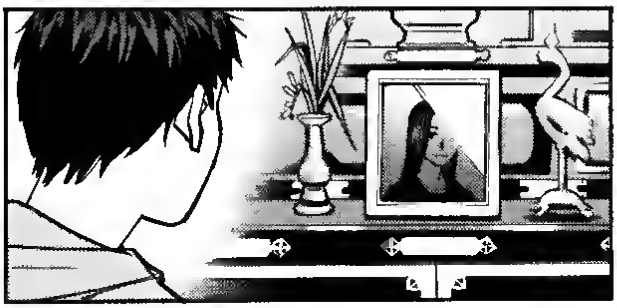
...
YOU DO KARATE! WHAT'S A LITTLE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE COMPARED TO THAT?!
IT STINGS, SIS!
OWWWW!

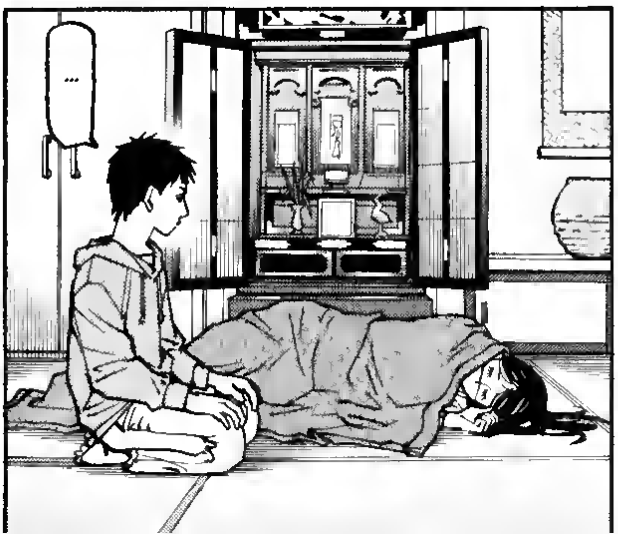
...
NO...
I'LL CALL YOUR GRANDPA AND LET HIM KNOW.
TAKASHI, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER?
I'LL GO HOME.


SIS!
アアア
WHERE'S GRANDMA ?
SIS.
YOU'LL CATCH COLD IF YOU SLEEP ON THE FLOOR LIKE THAT.
...

MOM
...

ザアアアアアア

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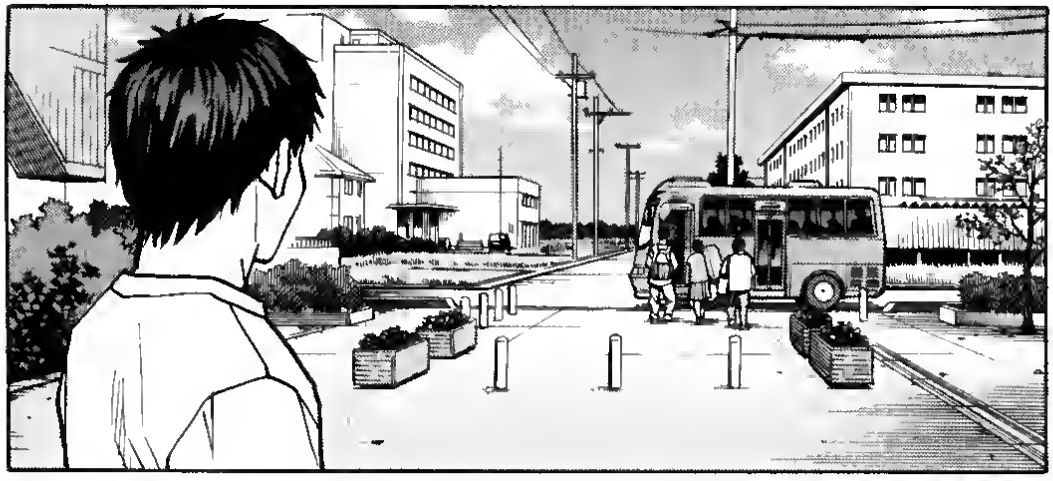

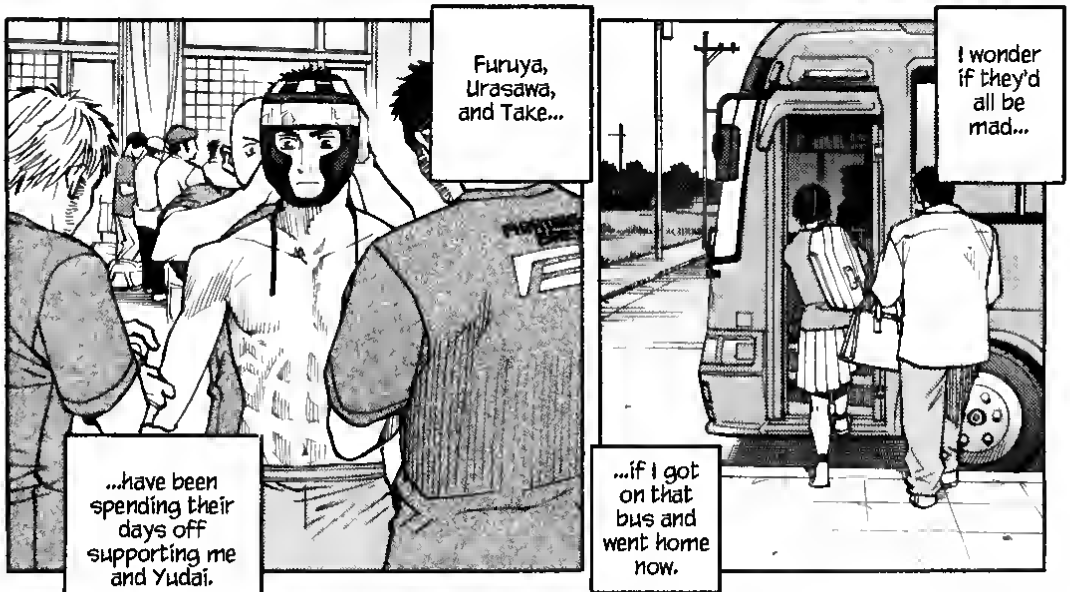
Furuya, Urasawa, and Take...
...have been spending their days off supporting me and Yudai.
I wonder if they'd all be mad...
...if I got on that bus and went home now.

And all those times...
...Maki had me on the mat with her clinches...
All the times...
...Watanabe pinned me...
Can't breathe with his face in Watanabe's stomach
!
MEGURU, COME ON!
HEY!
...

...
FURUYA SAID TO GET BACK INSIDE!
ROUND TWO'S ABOUT TO START!
I'M COMING.
OK.